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Motor Vehicle Division Rolls Out Program To Protect Victims Of Identity Theft

SANTA FE – State Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today announced that the Motor Vehicle Division has begun implementing a new program to help victims of identity theft in New Mexico.

“We will be issuing special driver’s licenses and identification cards to about 250 victims of identity theft so they are not wrongfully detained or arrested for crimes committed by those who assumed their identities,” said Secretary Padilla. “This will also allow victims of identity theft to clear their names in cases involving where someone has opened a bank account or obtained a credit card with their information.”

The Motor Vehicle Division has been working with the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office, The Department of Public Safety and law enforcement agencies across the state in implementing this program. The driver’s licenses and identification cards for the identity theft victims will feature a special endorsement in the back of the card that reads “V-Victim of Identity Theft.”

MVD will send new licenses to the 250 victims already in the database. Any new victims of identity theft are encouraged to first file a police report which is uploaded into the Identity Theft Database maintained by the New Mexico Attorney General Office. Victims then could go to any MVD office and let the clerk know that he or she is a victim of identity theft. The clerk will verify that information on MVD database and will initially issue a permit and then a new card is mailed to them.

The Motor Vehicle Division driver database is also updated with the endorsement which will be visible should law enforcement query the system.